Patent Claims

1.   A method for controlling the power consumption in
an electronic appliance which has a data interface
which is suitable for data transmissions and which
comprises a control line which is provided for data
flow control, where the method involves
-    the electronic appliance automatically turning
     itself on cyclically to a standby state,
-    the control line being used to signal to an
     application, in connection with the turning-on of
     the standby state in the electronic appliance,
     that the data interface has been enabled for data
     transmission,
-    the electronic appliance registering data
     transmissions from the application via the data
     interface,
-    a power-saving mode being automatically turned on
     in the electronic appliance when no data
     transmissions from the application via the data
     interface are registered.

2.   The method as claimed in patent claim 1,
characterized
in that the power-saving mode is not turned on after
the electronic appliance has not registered any data
transmissions via the data interface until after a time
which can be predetermined in the electronic appliance
has elapsed.

3.   An electronic appliance which has at least the
following elements:
-    a data interface comprising a control line, which
     is provided for data flow control, for performing
     data transmissions,
-    means for automatically turning on a standby state
     in the electronic appliance cyclically,

- means for connecting the turning-on of the standby state in the electronic appliance to the use of the control line to signal to an application that the data interface has been enabled for data transmission,
- means for registering data transmissions by the application via the data interface,
- means for automatically turning on a power-saving mode in the electronic appliance when no data transmissions from the application via the data interface are registered.

4. The electronic appliance as claimed in patent claim 3,
characterized
in that the electronic appliance is a GSM module.

5. The electronic appliance as claimed in either of patent claims 3 and 4,
characterized
in that a power-saving mode is provided as the state with the lowest power consumption.

6. The electronic appliance as claimed in one of the preceding patent claims 3 to 5,
characterized
in that the data interface is in the form of an RS-232 interface, and the control line is in the form of a clear-to-send control line.